

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide

**networks**

## Becoming a World Power, 1872–1917

### Lesson 1 *The Imperialist Vision*

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

*How are empires built?*

#### Reading HELPDESK

##### Content Vocabulary

**imperialism** the actions used by one nation to exercise political or economic control over a smaller or weaker nation

**protectorate** a country that is technically independent but is actually under the control of another country

**Pan-Americanism** the idea that the United States and Latin American nations should work together

##### Academic Vocabulary

**expansion** the act or process of increasing or enlarging the extent, number, volume, or scope

**conference** a meeting of two or more persons for discussing matters of common concern

# Reading Essentials and Study Guide *Cont.*



## Becoming a World Power, 1872–1917

**TAKING NOTES:** Organizing

**ACTIVITY** As you read about the development of the United States as a world power, use the major headings of the lesson to create an outline for the lesson similar to the one below.

**The Imperialist Vision**

**I. Building support for Imperialism**

A.

B.

C.

**II.**

A.

B.

**IT MATTERS BECAUSE...**

*The United States became more involved in international affairs in the late 1800s. It wanted to find new markets, increase trade, and build a powerful navy.*

### Building Support for Imperialism

**GUIDING QUESTION** Why did the United States assert itself as a world power?

After the Civil War, most Americans were not interested in getting more territory outside the United States. They were focusing on reorganizing the South, settling the West, and building up industry. In the 1880s, the United States had economic and military competition from Europe. They also had a growing feeling of cultural superiority. This convinced many Americans that the United States should become a world power.

#### A Desire for New Markets

Many European nations were expanding overseas. This was called the New Imperialism. **Imperialism** is the economic and political control of a strong nation over weaker nations. Europeans increased their power overseas to get raw materials for manufacturing. High tariffs were supposed to protect nations from foreign competition. But they also reduced trade. Also, investment opportunities had slowed in Western Europe. This forced companies to find new markets in which to sell goods and invest money.

Europeans began applying some control over territories to protect their investments. They made some into colonies and others into **protectorates**. In a protectorate, the imperial power protected local rulers against rebellions and invasion. In return, rulers usually had to accept Europeans' advice on how to govern their countries.

Many Americans noticed the **expansion**, or growth, of European powers when the United States started to industrialize. They became interested in the new imperialism. Many Americans decided that the nation needed new overseas markets to keep its economy strong.

#### A Feeling of Superiority

Certain key ideas encouraged Americans to support the nation's expansion overseas. Historian John Fiske argued that English-speaking nations had the best

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character and ideas. He also said that they had the best systems of government. His ideas were known as Anglo-Saxonism. Many Americans linked his ideas with the idea of Manifest Destiny. These Americans believed the nation was supposed to expand overseas to spread its civilization to others.

### Building a Modern Navy

The United States became more forceful in foreign affairs as imperialism and Anglo-Saxonism gained support. In 1888 the country risked war to stop Germany from taking control of Samoa. Samoa is an island in the South Pacific. The crisis ended peacefully. But many Americans now believed that the United States needed to build up its navy and have bases overseas. Otherwise the nation might be shut out of foreign markets.

U.S. naval officer Captain Alfred T. Mahan helped build public support for the idea that a nation needed large fleets of ships to trade with the world. He also said the nation needed a large navy to defend the right to trade with other countries. With the support of government officials people who favored these ideas convinced Congress to allow the building of a large navy.

#### **PROGRESS CHECK**

**Summarizing** Why did Americans' attitudes toward overseas expansion change?

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### American Expansion in the Pacific

**GUIDING QUESTION** Why did the United States look to the Pacific for new markets?

Americans had long expanded their nation by moving westward. The United States naturally looked to the Pacific when they looked for new markets overseas.

### Perry Opens Japan

In 1852 President Millard Fillmore ordered Commodore Matthew C. Perry to negotiate a trade treaty with Japan. In 1853 warships under Perry's command entered Edo Bay (now Tokyo Bay). Japan had limited contact with the West. The Japanese were afraid of the influence of Western ideas. But the Japanese realized they were not powerful enough to resist modern weapons after they saw the U.S. warships. Japan signed the Treaty of Kanagawa in 1854. This treaty gave the United States trading rights at two Japanese ports.

### Annexing Samoa and Hawaii

Trade with more of Asia grew. So U.S. ships needed ports to refuel and resupply as they crossed the Pacific. Pago Pago was in the Samoan Islands. It had one of the best harbors in the South Pacific. In 1878 the United States opened a base there. In 1899 an agreement split Samoa between Germany and the United States.

Hawaii was more important. Americans found that the sugar plant grew well in Hawaii, and planters created sugar plantations there. In 1875 the United States signed a treaty that did not place tariffs on Hawaiian sugar. The nation did this to

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help Hawaii during an economic recession. It wanted to keep Hawaii from asking Britain or France for help. When the treaty was up for renewal, the United States made Hawaii give the United States sole rights to a naval base at Pearl Harbor.

In 1887 sugar planters forced Hawaii's king to accept a constitution that limited his power. The planters wanted Hawaii to become part of the United States. Queen Liliuokalani took power in 1891, and she tried to regain the Hawaiian monarchy's power. The planters and U.S. marines brought the monarchy to an end in 1893. The United States annexed Hawaii in 1898.

### **PROGRESS CHECK**

**Explaining** How did the search for new overseas markets push the United States to become a world power?

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## Diplomacy in Latin America

**GUIDING QUESTION** How did the United States attempt to strengthen its ties and influence with the nations of Latin America?

In the 1800s, the United States also tried to build influence in Latin America. The United States bought raw materials from Latin America. But Latin America bought most of its manufactured goods from Europe. Many Americans wanted to sell more goods in Latin America. They thought this would show Europe that the United States was the leading power there. Secretary of State James G. Blaine supported **Pan-Americanism**. This is the idea that the United States and Latin American nations should work together. Blaine suggested that the United States should invite the Latin American nations to a **conference**, or meeting, in Washington, D.C.

Blaine had two goals for the Pan-American conference of 1889. The first goal was to create a customs union. This union would require all nations of the Western Hemisphere to decrease tariffs against one another and treat one another equally in trade. Blaine hoped this would turn the Latin Americans away from European goods. The second goal was to create a system for nations of the Western Hemisphere to work out disputes peacefully. They also wanted to keep Europeans from getting involved with affairs in the Americas.

Latin American delegates rejected both ideas. But they did agree to create the Commercial Bureau of the American Republics. This promoted cooperation among nations of the Western Hemisphere. Today that organization is known as the Organization of American States (OAS).

### **PROGRESS CHECK**

**Drawing Conclusions** How would increasing trade with Latin America strengthen U.S. dominance in the region?

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